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Music, which probably is as unknown to you, as it was before to me. The sublime grandeur of this composition cannot be described by any human language, and there is no other expression for its high religious tone than the music itself. I have no recollection whatever of any music except Mozart's Requiem that could have so entirely attracted me; but the Magnificat is more simple, and, so to speak, more Church-like. This Durante must have had as well in his spirit as in his name some affinity with Dante; and we perceive by such works, what the Italians formerly were as well in this branch of art. And we cut still but a poor figure compared with them, as Göthe has said. Then followed a Psalm by Naumann, which is certainly very beautiful in itself, but which compared with the former drew me down into a very modern sphere. I could have wished to hear the Magnificat once more immediately, because the first time I had to contend too much with the sense and spirit of the whole, to enjoy it in proper repose.

[The Correspondent to whom we are indebted for the above translation, would be glad to know if the "Magnificat," by Durante, is preserved in any English collection, and if he can obtain a copy.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor would be glad to meet with any Gentleman who has a copy of Beckwith's Anthems, which he wishes to exchange or sell.

Musica, Brighton.—*We give you the definition of the terms from Max Allgemeine Musiklehre:—Andante, going—but walking not running; Andantino, somewhat slower than Andante. Gottfried Weber defines the latter:—Andantino—This term is a diminutive of Andante. As a designation of time, it has no distinct well-defined meaning; it may, however, serve as the designation of a small, short Andante.*

A Constant Subscriber, Chelsea.—*Four of the Gleees you mention will be included either in The Musical Times or The Glee Hivo. The two last present copyright difficulties which will delay their insertion.*

J. R., Aberdeen, will see we have printed his letter, in the hope it may serve as a guide for others to establish music in other towns. "The Silver Swan" appears in this Number. The other Madrigal he names shall have early consideration.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the "Musical Times."

SIR,—Believing that you will be interested in any attempt to cultivate the style of music published by you in the *Musical Times*, I enclose the programme of a gratis concert given last night by a body of amateurs of both sexes, about thirty in number, who, for want of a better, have taken the name of the "Harmonic Choir."

The conductor, who is enthusiastically devoted to the style of music in question, in opening the proceedings, gave the audience (about eight hundred in number) a short sketch of the history of the body, from which it appeared that it arose from the musical inclination of himself and a few fellow-workmen in a lithographic establishment in the town, and that they were induced to attempt increasing their numbers entirely by the facility afforded for obtaining the best music by your publication of the periodical I have mentioned. After they had undergone some elementary drill in private, they procured the use of a school-room for weekly meetings, and about nine months ago they got together such an addition to their number as has raised them to their present amount.

They cannot command an organ or other instrumental accompaniment, but the pains taken by the conductor with all the parts, and the really good quality of the leading voices, go far to make up that want.

The audience were loud in their plaudits, and encored no fewer than five of the pieces.

The want of such a body in Aberdeen has long been felt, and in common with all who take any interest in musical matters here, I feel persuaded that last night's proceedings will be the means of commencing at least an improvement in the public taste, and inducing a general cultivation of the purest style of harmony.

I also enclose the programme of a concert to be given by a society of which I am a member. We consist of three violins, two violas, two violoncellos, flute, contra basso, and pianoforte. We have twenty associates, who pay a subscription of 21s. per annum, which entitles them to five tickets for each concert, of which we give annually five or six.

The society was instituted in 1847, and is led by Mr. R. H. Baker, pupil of the Royal Academy, and formerly of the Italian Opera, who has been settled here as a professor of music for many years. We are all amateurs except Mr. Baker, and our own performances are open only to those admitted by our, or the associates' tickets. They are an attempt to rival the celebrated Chamber Concerts of the metropolis.—J. R.

Aberdeen, March 21st, 1851.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

SUNDERLAND.—Mr. Loder gave a concert here on Tuesday, the 18th; the soloists on this occasion were the Misses Blakes (from Edinburgh), Miss Anne Brown, Messrs. Loder and Richmond, assisted by the Bishopwearmouth Choral Society, who sang a number of Madrigals, &c., with good effect, particularly a Madrigal by H. Hiles, of Manchester, *Hark how the birds*, which was encored with acclamations. The Concert was well attended, and reflected credit on all parties concerned.

HUDDERSFIELD SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—This flourishing Society gave a grand performance in the Philosophical Hall, on Monday, March 3rd when were performed, selections from Handel's Oratorios *Samson* and *Messiah*. Long before the time of commencement the Hall was filled by a most respectable audience. The principal solo parts were sustained by Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Crosland, Messrs. G. Milne, John Sheard, Netherwood and Winn. The orchestra consisted of eighty performers, conducted by Mr Horn—altogether the performance passed off well, and gave universal satisfaction.

LIVERPOOL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The Mount Pleasant Choral Society, connected with this Church, held their Fourth Annual Meeting on the 6th instant. The President, J. R. Beck, Esq., occupied the Chair. On the platform were the Rev. Hugh Crichton, D.D., Rev. Wm. Graham, Rev. T. Raffles, D.D., L.L.D., Rev. J. Jones, of Birkenhead, and Rev. T. M. White. The Society is composed of members and adherents of the congregation, and was originated from a desire to conduct and improve the music in the Services of the Church. The performance of the duty is entirely gratuitous, and without any professional aid whatever. The Society has hitherto succeeded in carrying out, satisfactorily, their object, which has been to make the Psalmody of the Church an intelligent and

skilful, as well as a religious and sacred, part of Divine Worship. After tea had been served, a hymn was sung, and the Chairman opened the proceedings in an able speech, followed by other interesting addresses. The following pieces were performed by the society in the course of the evening. The "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis," from Dr. Cooke's Service in G; "Lord for thy tender mercies' sake" (Farrant); "Cry aloud and shout" (Dr. Croft); "Jubilate Deo"; "Holiest breathe an evening blessing"—Italian chorale. The interest of the meeting was sustained until a late hour.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The inhabitants were much gratified on the Evenings of the 13th and 14th of March, by two Lectures delivered by Sir H. R. Bishop, in the Philosophical Hall, to a highly respectable audience. The Vocal Illustrations, which were selected from his own compositions, were given by Mrs. Sunderland, Mrs. S. Peace, and Mr. Inkersall, assisted by the professional members of the "Huddersfield Glee Club" in so efficient a manner, as to obtain the praise of the noble composer himself. The slight sketch which he gave of his musical career, early difficulties, and unwearied perseverance in reforming the then degenerate state of musical taste, was highly interesting, and his concluding advice to young aspirants to musical fame, manifested his usual intelligence and judgment.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL.—After a very strict trial of skill, the following candidates were appointed lay clerks of Hereford cathedral on the 20th of March,—Mr. G. Bickley, from the cathedral, Lichfield; Mr. Burville, from the cathedral, Rochester; Mr. Stevens, from the cathedral, Ely; and Messrs. Lumley, Taylor, and Ward, from the cathedral, Lincoln. Amongst the candidates, Mr. Metcalfe, a pupil of Dr. Bexfield's, greatly distinguished himself. The services were Hall and Hine, morning; Hayes, Eb, evening. Anthems, "God is gone up" (Croft); "God is our hope" (Greene). The effect of the choral service in the fine Norman nave was most beautiful. Twelve singers are necessary in so vast a building;—the six chosen are excellent. There were forty candidates: twelve were selected to compete. The appointment of lay clerks is a novelty at Hereford; the old system was a college of twelve vicars choral in orders, four of whom were also minor canons.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—The Annual Concert, for which every subscriber to this Society has a ticket of admission presented, takes place on Wednesday, May the 7th, the Public Rehearsal on the previous Monday Morning.

MR. W. H. MONK'S LECTURES.—This Gentleman has brought to a close the course of Lectures on Ecclesiastical Music, which he has been delivering at the London Institution, Finsbury. The subject of the closing Lecture was a consideration of the compositions by the Pupil's associates and successors of Purcell. He was assisted by an efficient choir of about forty voices, in the specimens produced of the Cathedral Music of the period under discussion.

AN ASSOCIATION has been formed for promoting the repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge. We would refer our readers to the petition of Mr. J. Alfred Novello to Parliament, presented last session, and printed at page 323, vol. 3 (May, 1850), to see how much the spread of Cheap Music is retarded by these taxes. At a public meeting of the association, held on the 5th of

March, at St. Martin's Hall, Professor T. H. Key in the chair, the following resolutions were passed:—

"That all taxes which impede the diffusion of knowledge are highly injurious to the public interest, and are most impolitic sources of revenue, and that their retention by the Legislature is utterly inconsistent with the opinion now universally professed in favour of popular education.

"That the excise on paper, the tax on advertisements, and the stamp on newspapers, though apparently unconnected taxes, are in reality parts of one system, which restricts the freedom of the press by hampering it with fiscal burdens.

"That by allowing a number of registered newspapers to circulate a portion of their impression without stamps, and denying the same privilege to others; and by permitting news and political comments to be inserted in the unstamped publications of the metropolis, while suppressing similar publications in the country; the board of Inland Revenue has invested itself with the powers of a censorship equally foreign to the laws of the land and the feelings of the people of this country."

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|---|------------|
| The Taxes on Knowledge per annum amount, in round numbers, to | £1,183,000 |
| Deduct the Annual Vote for Education | 100,000 |
| | £1,083,000 |

so that one million of Taxation on Knowledge is still maintained by a government professing to foster the spread of education. We would refer those interested in the subject to the ample address just printed by the Association.

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